

Appl. No. 09/367,794
Amdt. dated November 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 4, 2003

PATENT
018148-000130US

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful comments in the previous Office Action (mailed November 4, 2003). In order to facilitate Allowance, Applicants have amended pending claim 44 to recite the specific subject matter which the Examiner indicated was enabled (*see, e.g.*, Office Action at page 4). Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 44 to recite the use of the compounds listed in Figure 2 of the specification, and to recite the step of contacting a sodium ion channel with those compounds. New claims 70-80 which depend from claim 44 have been added. Each of the new dependent claims recites the method of claim 44 comprising the use of a specific compound listed in the Markush group of claim 44. Support for the amendments and the new claims is found in the claims as originally filed and in the specification at, *e.g.*, Examples 1-12 (pages 33-47).

Applicants have canceled claims 46, 48-50, 52, 53, 55-57, 59-62 and 64-69 without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claims of equal or greater scope in this or in a related application.

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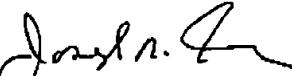
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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